to strengthen and deepen our bilateral relations including Parliamentary exchanges, enhance Civil Society interaction and deepen cooperation in energy, Environment and Science and Technology. We agreed to intensify consultations on UN Reforms and Cooperation in Counter Terrorism. Prime Minsiter called on Queen Beatrix and participated in the 'India-EU Business Round Table'—a select group of Indian and European CEOs. External Affairs Minister had a bilateral meeting with Dutch Foreign Minister Bernard Bot.

(c) Prime Minister in his address to the UNGA, while emphasizing the need for UN reform said that the expansion of the Security Council, in the category of both permanent and non-permanent members, and the inclusion of countries like India as permanent members, would be a first step in the process of making the United Nations a truly representative body.

(d) A large number of leaders in their speeches at the 59th UNGA referred to the necessity of UN institutional reforms, the expansion of the Security Council, the inclusion of new permanent members and India's credentials in this regard.

Ban on Indian Scientists

†110. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the United States is trying to impose ban against three more Indian scientists for extending help to Iranian nuclear programme without any solid evidence against them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) On September 29, 2004, the US Government imposed sanctions against two retired Indian Nuclear Scientists of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), citing alleged assistance to the Iranian nuclear programme including

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

transfer of sensitive technology. Government of India does not share the US assessment. No transfer of sensitive nuclear technology has taken place. US Government has been requested to review the issue and to withdraw the sanctions imposed. Government is not aware of any plans of the US Government to impose sanctions on three more Indian entities as mentioned in some press reports.

Attack on Gurudwara Nankana Sahib

†111. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that after mobilising the mob some people had attacked the Gurudwara Nankana Sahib in Lahore in Pakistan which is the most sacred place of Sikh community and if so, the extent of damage to Gurudwara in that attack;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan for the reparation of Gurudwara;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether Government have taken a guarantee from the Government of pakistan for providing safety for the Gurudwara Nankana Sahib and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) As per available information, a mob attacked Gurudwara Nankana Sahib on September 25, 2004. During the attack the Gurudwara building suffered some damage.

(b) to (d) The Government took immediate notice of reports of the attack on Gurudwara Nankana Sahib and the official spokesperson of Ministry of External Affairs, in a statement made on September 28, 2004, had expressed the hope that the Government of Pakistan would take necessary measures for the protection of this holy shrine. The matter was also taken up with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, and our High Commission in Islamabad raised the issue with the Pakistan Foreign Office.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.